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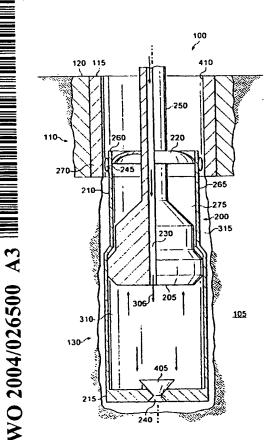
(74) Agent: MATTINGLY, Todd; Haynes and Boone, LLP, Suite 3100, 901 Main Street, Dallas, TX 75202 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SELF-LUBRICATING EXPANSION MANDREL FOR EXPANDABLE TUBULAR



(57) Abstract: A self-lubricating expansion mandrel (205) includes a system for lubricating the interface between the self-lubricating expansion mandrel (205) and a tubular member (210) during the radial expansion of the tubular member (210).

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
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U.S.: 166/207, 55.7, 50, 55, 55.1, 205, 209, 216, 242.1, 297, 380, 384				
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)				
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where a	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
х	US 2002/0062956 A1 (MURRAY et al.) 30 May 2	002 (30.5.2002), whole document	1-9	
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Y	US 5,014,779 A (MELING et al) 14 May 1991 (14	.05.1991), column 3, lines 31-36	19-23	
Y	US 4,526,839 A(HERMAN et al) 2 July 1985 (02.07.1985), column 5, line 60- column 6,			
	line 16.			
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priority date claimed				
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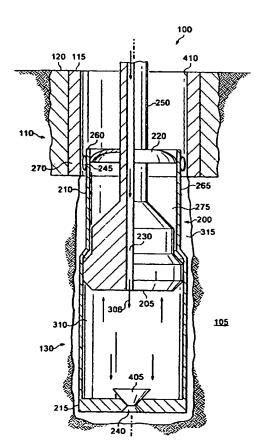
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[US/US]: 19115 Prospect Ridge Lane, Houston, TX 77094 (US). **RING, Lev** [US/US]: 14126 Heatherhill Place, Houston, TX 77077 (US).

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- (81) Designated States (national): A.E. A.G. A.L., A.M., A.T. A.U., A.Z., B.A. B.B. B.G., B.R. B.Y. B.Z., C.A. C.H., C.N., C.O., C.R., C.U., C.Z., D.E., D.K., D.M., D.Z., E.C., E.E., E.S., F.F., G.B., G.D., G.E., G.H., G.M., H.R., H.U., H.D., H.L., I.N., I.S., J.P., K.E., K.G., K.P., K.R., K.Z., L.C., L.K., L.R., L.S., L.T., L.U., L.V., M.A., M.D., M.G., M.K., M.N., M.W., M.X., M.O., N.Z., O.M., P.H., P.L., P.T., R.O., R.U., S.C., S.D., S.E., S.G., S.K., S.L., T.J., T.M., T.N., T.R., T.T., T.Z., U.A., U.G., U.S., U.Z., V.C., V.N., Y.U., Z.A., Z.M., Z.W.
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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 23 July 2004 (23.07.2004); claims 24-47 added

- 17. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 12, wherein the solid lubricant retained in the plurality of troughs formed in a textured pattern comprises a thermo-sprayed coating.
- 18. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 12, wherein the depth of the plurality of troughs formed in a textured pattern is in a range of between about 50 and 150 microns.
- A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising:
 a housing including a tapered outer surface;
 - one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and
 - a grease supply chamber in the housing;
 - a conduit from the grease supply chamber to one or more of the grooves; and

means for forcing grease from the grease supply chamber trough the conduit to one or more of the grooves.

- 20. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 19, wherein the one or more grooves comprise circumferential grooves.
- The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 19, wherein the grooves comprise axial grooves.
- 22. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 19, wherein the grooves comprise a pattern of grooves with both an axial and a circumferential component.
- 23. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 22, wherein the pattern of grooves comprises a textured surface.
- 24. A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising: a housing including a tapered outer surface; one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves; wherein the grooves comprise circumferential grooves.
- 25. A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising: a housing including a tapered outer surface; one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves; wherein the grooves comprise axial grooves.
- 26. A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising:
 a housing including a tapered outer surface;
 one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and
 solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves;
 wherein the grooves comprise a pattern of grooves with both an axial and a circumferential component.
- 27. A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising: a housing including a tapered outer surface; one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and

solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves; wherein the pattern of grooves comprises a textured surface.

- 28. A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising: a housing including a tapered outer surface; one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves; wherein the depth of the grooves is in a range of between about 1 and 4 microns.
- 29. A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising: a housing including a tapered outer surface; one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves; wherein the depth of the grooves is in a range of between about 10 and 50 microns.
- 30. A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising:
 a housing including a tapered outer surface;
 one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and
 solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves;
 wherein the solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves comprises a thermo-sprayed coating.
- 31. A self-lubricating expansion mandrel for expanding a tubular member, comprising: a housing including a tapered outer surface; one or more grooves formed in the tapered outer surface; and solid lubricant retained in one or more of the grooves; wherein the depth of the grooves is in a range of between about 50 and 150 microns.
- 32. A self-lubricating expansion device for expanding a tubular member, comprising: a housing including a tapered outer surface; one or more depressions formed in the tapered outer surface; and a lubricant supply chamber in the housing; a conduit from the lubricant supply chamber to one or more of the depressions; and means for forcing lubricant from the lubricant supply chamber trough the conduit to one or more of the depressions.
- 33. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 32, wherein the one or more depressions comprise circumferential grooves.
- 34. The self-hibricating expansion mandrel of claim 32, wherein the depressions comprise axial grooves.
- 35. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 32, wherein the depressions comprise a pattern of grooves with both an axial and a circumferential component.

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36. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 35, wherein the pattern of grooves comprises a textured surface.

- 37. A self-lubricating expansion device for expanding a tubular member, wherein the interface between the expansion device and the tubular member, during the expansion process, includes a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion, comprising:
- a housing including a tapered outer surface;
- one or more first depressions formed in the leading edge portion of the tapered outer surface; and a lubricant supply chamber in the housing;
- a conduit from the lubricant supply chamber to one or more of the first depressions;
- means for forcing lubricant from the lubricant supply chamber trough the conduit to one or more of the depressions;

one or more second depressions formed in the trailing edge portion of the tapered outer surface; and a solid lubricant provided within one or more of the second depressions.

- 38. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 37, wherein one or more of the first and second depressions comprise circumferential grooves.
- 39. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 37, wherein one or more of the first and second depressions comprise axial grooves.
- 40. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 37, wherein one or more of the first and second depressions comprise a pattern of grooves with both an axial and a circumferential component.
- 41. The self-lubricating expansion mandrel of claim 40, wherein the pattern of grooves comprises a textured surface.
- 42. A method of lubricating the interface between and expansion device and a tubular member during an expansion of the tubular member using the expansion device, wherein the interface between the expansion device and the tubular member comprises a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion, comprising:

injecting a fluid lubricant into the leading edge portion; and providing a solid lubricant in the trailing edge portion.

43. A system for lubricating the interface between and expansion device and a tubular member during an expansion of the tubular member using the expansion device, wherein the interface between the expansion device and the tubular member comprises a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion, comprising:

means for injecting a fluid lubricant into the leading edge portion; and means for providing a solid lubricant in the trailing edge portion.

44. A method of lubricating the interface between and expansion device and a tubular member during an expansion of the tubular member using the expansion device, wherein the interface between the

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expansion device and the tubular member comprises a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion, comprising:

providing a supply of a fluid lubricant within the expansion device; and injecting the fluid lubricant into the leading edge portion.

45. A system for lubricating the interface between and expansion device and a tubular member during an expansion of the tubular member using the expansion device, wherein the interface between the expansion device and the tubular member comprises a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion, comprising:

means for providing a supply of a fluid lubricant within the expansion device; and means for injecting the fluid lubricant into the leading edge portion.

46. A method of lubricating the interface between and expansion device and a tubular member during an expansion of the tubular member using the expansion device, wherein the interface between the expansion device and the tubular member comprises a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion, comprising:

providing a supply of a solid lubricant on the expansion device within the trailing edge portion.

47. A system for lubricating the interface between and expansion device and a tubular member during an expansion of the tubular member using the expansion device, wherein the interface between the expansion device and the tubular member comprises a leading edge portion and a trailing edge portion, comprising:

means for providing a supply of a solid lubricant on the expansion device within the trailing edge portion.

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